



PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES'  
UNDERGRADUATE  
RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM  
SPRING 2020

PRESENTATIONS OF SENIOR THESES AND HONORS THESES

SESSION I: TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020  
<https://loyno.zoom.us/j/91630229367>

SESSION II: THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020  
<https://loyno.zoom.us/j/99498587492>

12:30 – 1:45 PM  
VIA ZOOM

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70118

**PROGRAM – SESSION 1**  
(All times are approximate)

**12:30 Welcome and Introduction**

Dr. Evan Zucker, Course Instructor, Senior Thesis (PSYC G489)

**12:35 Bevin Harris**

**Thesis Title:** Predicting Parent Concern of Autism Symptoms between African-American and Caucasian Children

**Thesis Advisor:** Dr. Enrique Varela

**Abstract:** Research on cross-cultural differences in regards to autism spectrum disorder (ASD) symptoms have thus far produced mixed results. It is productive to investigate possible differences as well as likelihood of parent concern for autism. This study examined ethnicity, challenging behaviors, and social impairments as predictors of parent concern for autism.

**12:50 Teddy Herrick**

**Thesis Title:** Body Modifications in the Workplace

**Thesis Advisor:** Dr. Evan Zucker

**Abstract:** Many employers require the removal or covering of any atypical piercings and tattoos during work hours. The effects of these body modifications on co-workers' perceptions was assessed, testing whether visible and/or hidden body modifications will have a negative impact on co-workers' perceptions of helpfulness, responsibility, and supportiveness. Possible effects were assessed by having participants, as co-workers, complete the Big Five personality measure and the People on Your Present Job subscale of the Job Descriptive Index.

**1:05 Ritu Pandya**

**Thesis Title:** Sex Differences in Learning and Anxiety in Adolescent Rodents as a Result of Early Life Stress

**Thesis Advisor:** Dr. Elin Grissom

**Abstract:** Biological differences between males and females are widespread. Some of these dissimilarities are implemented by the activation of hormones after puberty. These hormones can affect animal learning and retention. They can also affect responses to stressful or anxiety-inducing environments. This study aimed to determine if early life stress alters learning and anxiety levels after puberty in rodents, and if these alterations are sex-specific.

**1:20 Ashley Hart**

**Thesis Title:** Beauty and Achievement: Stereotypes and Contingencies of Self-Worth among College Women

**Thesis Advisor:** Dr. Kim Ernst

**Abstract:** With respect to self-esteem and self-worth, college women are in a unique situation as they deal with the pressure to adhere to particular beauty standards while also achieving a standard in academic performance necessary to succeed in higher education. The current study seeks to examine how female undergraduates attending Loyola perceive female gender stereotypes regarding appearance and academics, and how their perception of these stereotypes, in turn, reflects on what they base their own self-worth.

Continued on next page...

**1:35 Daniel Nisthal**

**Thesis Title:** Relationship between “Dorm Life” and Overall Well-Being, Eating Habits, and Mood

**Thesis Advisor:** Dr. Charles Nichols

**Abstract:** This study seeks to evaluate the correlation between students' housing arrangements (Off-campus vs. On-campus) and their overall well-being, eating habits, and mood.

**PROGRAM – SESSION 2**

(All times are approximate)

**12:30 Welcome and Introduction**

Dr. Evan Zucker, Course Instructor, Senior Thesis (PSYC G489)

**12:35 Noelle Zeichik**

**Thesis Title:** The Relationship between Moral Foundation and Perception of Sexwork

**Thesis Advisor:** Dr. Charles Nichols

**Abstract:** to be added

**12:50 Skye Johnson**

**Thesis Title:** Gender Stereotypes and Biases on Memory Recall of a Narrative

**Thesis Advisor:** Dr. Tuan Lam

**Abstract:** This experiment tested whether participants' gender identity influenced recall of gender associated events relating to character(s) in a narrative. It was predicted that participants will recall more events related to character(s) who are members of their in-group compared to character(s) who are not members of their in-group. In addition, it was predicted that participants will recall more events that are stereotypically associated with their gender.

**1:05 Mollie Probst**

**Thesis Title:** Perceived Gender Differences in Individuals Involved in Consensually Non Monogamous Relationships

**Thesis Advisor:** Dr. Elin Grissom

**Abstract:** While monogamy is still the most culturally dominant relationship style in the US, there are an increasing number of people choosing non monogamous relationships. Although people in consensually non monogamous (CNM) relationships typically report equivalent levels of relationship satisfaction as those in monogamous relationships, non monogamy is stigmatized. This study aimed to explore that stigma and determine the differences in how men and women in polyamorous relationships are perceived.

**1:20 Daniel Tejada**

**Thesis Title:** Comparing Auditory Working Memory between Classical and Jazz Musicians

**Thesis Advisor:** Dr. Kate Yurgil

**Abstract:** to be added